

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

(A) an internal combustion engine; and

(B) an exhaust gas purifying catalyst provided in an exhaust passageway of said internal combustion engine,

said emission control system further including:

(a) a box body formed with an exhaust gas inlet and an exhaust gas outlet;

(b) a catalyst support incorporated into said box body; and

(c) a catalyst substance supported on said catalyst support,

wherein a part of said catalyst support of said ~~exhaust gas purging purifying~~ catalyst is a low resistance area formed so that a gas flow resistance is lower than in other areas and disposed in such a position that a flow velocity of the exhaust gas flowing to said catalyst support is high,

said low resistance area is an area in which the gas flow resistance is set low by forming a notched portion in said catalyst support, and

said notched portion is formed in a part of an exhaust gas inflow sided end surface of said catalyst support.

2. (Currently Amended) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine ~~according to claim 1~~, comprising:

(A) an internal combustion engine; and

(B) an exhaust gas purifying catalyst provided in an exhaust passageway of said internal combustion engine,

said emission control system further including:

(a) a box body formed with an exhaust gas inlet and an exhaust gas outlet;

(b) a catalyst support incorporated into said box body; and

(c) a catalyst substance supported on said catalyst support,

wherein a part of said catalyst support of said exhaust gas purifying catalyst is a low resistance area formed so that a gas flow resistance is lower than in other areas and disposed in such a position that a flow velocity of the exhaust gas flowing to said catalyst support is high.

_____ said low resistance area is an area in which the gas flow resistance is set low by forming a notched portion in said catalyst support, and
_____ said notched portion is formed in a part of an exhaust gas outflow sided end surface of said catalyst support.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to claim-3_1, wherein a portion, disposed more downstream in the exhaust gas flow direction than said notched portion, of said catalyst support supports a larger quantity of catalyst substance than in other portions.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to claim-5_2, wherein a portion, disposed more upstream in the exhaust gas flow direction than said notched portion, of said catalyst support supports a larger quantity of catalyst substance than in other portions.

7. (Currently Amended) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to claims-3_1, wherein a plurality of notched portions are formed.

8. (Currently Amended) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to claim-3_1, wherein said notched portion takes an annular shape.

9. (Currently Amended) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to claim-3_1, wherein said notched portion includes an exhaust gas guide passageway inclined.

10. (Original) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to claim 9, wherein said notched portion takes a conical shape.